

Appln No. 09/693,565
Amdt date December 12, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 12, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 17-20, 25 and 26 remain in the present application, of which claims 1 and 17 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 8, 17, 18 and 25 are amended herein. None of the claims is canceled herein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10, 17-20, 25 and 26.

I. Telephone Interview of October 24, 2005

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the time and courtesy extended to Applicant's attorney during the telephone interview of October 24, 2005. During the telephone interview, claim 1 was discussed in reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,067,530 issued to Brooks, Jr. et al. ("Brooks"), but no agreement was reached. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the guidance provided toward amending the claims to place them in a better form for allowance.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-10, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly "being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Claim 1 is amended herein to recite, in a relevant portion, "a cash information server configured to receive the deposit information and the pair of identifiers from the central control unit and to identify the amount of cash collected by the business establishment during the accounting periods." (Emphasis Added) Applicant believes that the amendment to claim 1 sufficiently addresses the Examiner's concern that "[i]t is unclear in claim 1 line 31 as to what is meant by the accounting period as an accounting period (before predetermined event) is claimed in line 10 and another accounting period (after predetermined event) is claimed in line 12." Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Since claims 2-10, 25 and 26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was based on their dependence from claim 1,

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Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn as well.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-10, 17-20, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 17-20, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brooks. Claims 3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brooks in view of Examiner's Official Notice.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (see MPEP §2142).

Therefore, in order to reject claims as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the cited reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. In rejecting claims 1, 2, 4, 17-20, 25 and 26, the Examiner cites a single reference, namely, Brooks. The Examiner admits in the Office Action that "Brooks Jr. et al. does not expressly show the identifier data to not include values including a data and/or time of the predetermined event." However, the Examiner contends that "these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited."

Applicant traverses as follows. In a conventional cash management/control system, data and/or time of a predetermined event is generally used to distinguish deposit information accumulated only during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during an accounting period that includes a period after the predetermined event. As such, there generally is no way of distinguishing between the deposit information accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event and the deposit information accumulated during the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event, without the date and/or time information in conventional systems.

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Unlike the conventional systems, in the cash control system of claim 1, a pair of identifiers that do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event are used to distinguish deposit information accumulated only during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during an accounting period that includes a period after the predetermined event. This way, by generating, using the control software and based on the detected predetermined event and the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event, the pair of identifiers to indicate whether the deposit information was accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event or during the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event, the deposit information accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event and the deposit information accumulated during the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event can be distinguished from each other using the pair of identifiers that do not contain values including the date and/or time of the predetermined event. As such, the accumulated deposit information in different accounting periods can be distinguished from each other in a different manner than in conventional systems that use date and/or time information.

Claims have now been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 recites, in a relevant portion,

A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

...

a central control unit which receives deposit information from the safe assembly and generates and transmits deposit reports, the central control unit uses the control software to update and transmit the pair of identifiers, the central control unit comprising:

means for detecting the predetermined event used to determine the accounting period before the predetermined event;

means for detecting the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event; and

means for generating, using the control software and based on the detected predetermined event and the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event, the pair of identifiers to indicate whether the deposit information was accumulated only during the accounting period before

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the predetermined event or during the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event by making the identifiers to be different from one another or to be identical to each other, wherein the pair of identifiers do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event . . .
(Emphasis Added)

The prior art of record, either individually or taken in any combination, do not teach or suggest such a cash control system for a business establishment. By way of example, the prior art of record do not teach or suggest "means for detecting the predetermined event used to determine the accounting period before the predetermined event; means for detecting the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event; and means for generating, using the control software and based on the detected predetermined event and the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event, the pair of identifiers to indicate whether the deposit information was accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event or during the accounting period that includes the period after the predetermined event by making the identifiers to be different from one another or to be identical to each other, wherein the pair of identifiers do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event . . ."

Further, since the pair of identifiers that do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event allow/enable the cash control system to function differently from the conventional systems having date and/or time information of the predetermined event as an identifier, the limitation of "wherein the pair of identifiers do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event" must necessarily be functionally involved in the operation of the cash control system. As the Examiner admits, the prior art of record does not disclose this limitation, and therefore, claim 1 would not have been obvious over Brooks at the time the invention was made and the *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established. Therefore, Applicant submits that "wherein the pair of identifiers do not contain values including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event" together with other limitations of claim 1, patentably distinguishes claim 1 over the prior art of record including Brooks. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and that it be allowed.

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Similar to claim 1, claim 17 recites, in a relevant portion,

A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

...
a memory in which a control software is stored, the control software programmed to update a sequence number and an alternate sequence number such that the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are successively the same as or different from each other;

a central control unit which receives the deposit information from the safe assembly, generates a deposit report concerning the deposit information, updates, using the control software, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, and transmits the deposit report, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, the central control unit comprising:

means for detecting an armored car pickup; and

means for updating the alternate sequence number when the armored car pickup is detected to indicate an occurrence of the armored car pickup, wherein the sequence number and the alternate sequence number do not contain any date and/or time information . . . (Emphasis Added)

For at least the reasons similar to those given above in references to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 17 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. Further, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are successively the same as or different from each other . . . means for detecting an armored car pickup; and means for updating the alternate sequence number when the armored car pickup is detected to indicate an occurrence of the armored car pickup, wherein the sequence number and the alternate sequence number do not contain any date and/or time information." Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn and that it be allowed.

Since claims 2-10, 18-20, 25 and 26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 17, respectively, they each incorporate all the terms and limitations of the respective base claim in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2-10, 18-20, 25 and 26 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

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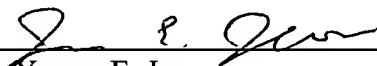
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IV. Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance with allowance of claims 1-10, 17-20, 25 and 26. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Jun-Young E. Jeon
Reg. No. 43,693
626/795-9900

JEJ/jej

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